

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, and 16-20 are pending in the application; and that claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, and 16-20 are rejected. By this amendment, claim 5 has been cancelled and claims 1, 9, 11, 17, and 19-20 have been amended. New claims 21-24 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-11, and 16-24 remain pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Murad, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,526,389), and further in view of *McDonough, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,693). Claim 5 has been cancelled. Independent claims 1, 11 and 17 have been amended. Remaining dependent claims 3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 16 and 18-20 are amended by way of dependency. Such amended claims are believed to overcome the prior art of record. New claims 21-24 are believed to be allowable over the cited prior art.

Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Response to Arguments

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the withdrawal of the Examiner's objection to the declaration given in the previous rejection, and Examiner's acceptance of the new declaration submitted by the Applicants.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be

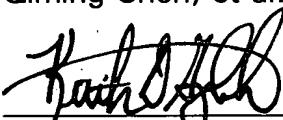
anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview before issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

Qiming Chen, et al., Inventors

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By:


Keith D. Grzelak
Reg. No. 37,144

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(509) 624-4276